

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN AUGUST 2019

U.S. net production of intermediate tungsten products, including metal powder and tungsten carbide powder, was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. imports of selected materials in January through August 2019 was 7% less than that imported during the same period in 2018 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in January through August 2019 was 6% less than that exported during the same period in 2018 (table 3).

Prices

Weekly average prices for ammonium paratungstate, as reported in Platts Metals Week, remained unchanged in August 2019. The August 2019 monthly average price was 16% lower than that in August 2018. Platt's weekly prices for tungsten concentrates remained unchanged. The August 2019 monthly average price was 18% lower than that in August 2018. The

following prices for August 2019, in dollars per metric ton unit, were converted from short-ton-unit prices and rounded to the nearest dollar:

Ammonium paratungstate, U.S. free market:

Low—\$309/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$280/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$320/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$290/short ton unit WO₃)

Concentrates:

Low—\$265/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$240/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$276/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$250/short ton unit WO₃)

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TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT TUNGSTEN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Concentrate				Intermediate products		
	Reported consumption	Imports for consumption	Stocks, end of period		Net production ^{p,4}	Stocks, end of period	
			Industry ^{p,2}	U.S. Government ³		Producer ^{p,5}	U.S. Government ³
2018:							
August	W	385	W	9,250	W	W	125
September	W	419	W	9,170	W	W	125
October	W	462	W	9,170	W	W	125
November	W	169	W	9,090	W	W	125
December	W	435	W	8,990	W	W	125
January–December	W	4,050	W	8,990	W	W	125
2019:							
January	W	315	W	8,900	W	W	125
February	W	251	W	8,760	W	W	125
March	W	282	W	8,640	W	W	125
April	W	200	W	8,520	W	W	125
May	W	274	W	8,520	W	W	125
June	W	335	W	8,480	W	W	125
July	W	143	W	8,480	W	W	125
August	W	255	W	8,480	W	W	125
January–August	W	2,060	W	8,480	W	W	125

^pPreliminary. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Reported by consumers; includes estimates.

³Data from the Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials.

⁴Net production of tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder; includes estimates.

⁵Data for tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder reported by producers; includes estimates.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY¹

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country or locality of origin	Ores and concentrates	Ammonium tungstates	Ferro-tungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Other ²	Total	Total, year to date
2018	4,050	2,200	143	1,440	1,530	2,120	11,500	XX
2019:								
June	335	102	8	126	222	181	974	5,220
July	143	140	3	182	195	215	877	6,100
August:								
Austria	--	--	--	1	24	2	27	390
Bolivia	112	--	--	--	--	--	112	839
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Burundi	9	--	--	--	--	--	9	54
Canada	--	--	--	23	44	3	69	475
China	--	72	--	114	100	61	349	2,630
France	--	--	--	1	1	(3)	2	16
Germany	--	114	--	2	(3)	5	121	500
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	59
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	39
Israel	--	--	--	--	7	--	7	113
Japan	--	--	--	2	(3)	13	15	140
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	20	--	(3)	20	87
Mongolia	20	--	--	--	--	--	20	111
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20
Nigeria	21	--	--	--	--	--	21	144
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	80
Poland	3	--	--	--	--	--	3	28
Portugal	46	--	--	--	--	--	46	414
Russia	25	--	5	--	--	--	30	122
Rwanda	10	--	--	--	--	--	10	19
Spain	9	--	--	--	--	--	9	277
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	7
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	50	50	100
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	23
Uganda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	35
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	2	(3)	2	7
Vietnam	--	--	--	15	3	26	44	302
Other	--	--	--	--	(3)	1	1	18
Total	255	186	5	179	181	161	966	7,060
January–August	2,060	978	56	1,240	1,370	1,370	7,060	XX

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes other unwrought tungsten, wrought tungsten, calcium and other tungstates, tungsten oxides, tungsten chlorides, other tungsten compounds, ash and residues containing mainly tungsten, and other mixtures of inorganic compounds containing tungsten. Tungsten content estimated in part.

³Less than ½ unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in August 2019 totaled 253 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–August total of 2,020 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY OR LOCALITY¹

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country or locality of destination	Ores and concentrates ²	Ammonium Tungstates	Metal powder ²	Tungsten carbide powder	Other ³	Total	Total, year to date
2018	284	106	260	1,180	1,020	2,850	XX
2019:							
June	27	(4)	14	45	96	182	1,440
July	47	--	21	65	53	187	1,630
August:							
Argentina	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
Australia	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	1	24
Austria	--	--	--	--	13	13	120
Belgium	--	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	5
Brazil	--	2	1	1	--	3	18
Canada	--	--	4	14	3	21	226
China	--	--	(4)	10	1	11	68
Costa Rica	--	--	--	(4)	1	1	7
Czechia	--	--	1	--	(4)	1	32
France	--	--	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	23
Germany	--	--	3	7	1	10	124
Hong Kong	--	--	--	2	--	2	5
India	--	--	5	3	(4)	8	32
Indonesia	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	5
Ireland	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	9
Japan	--	--	1	7	36	43	455
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	(4)	(4)	1	11
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	4
Mexico	--	--	3	1	19	22	164
Netherlands	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	203
Peru	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	1	4
Philippines	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	5
Saudi Arabia	--	--	2	2	--	3	22
Singapore	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	5
South Africa	--	--	2	--	(4)	2	11
Taiwan	--	--	--	1	(4)	1	7
United Kingdom	--	--	1	1	(4)	2	22
Vietnam	18	--	--	--	--	18	158
Other	--	1	1	1	(4)	2	22
Total	18	2	24	51	75	170	1,800
January–August	368	20	140	535	733	1,800	XX

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Tungsten content estimated from reported gross weight.

³Includes unwrought tungsten, including bars and rods obtained simply by sintering, wrought tungsten, ferrotungsten, and other tungstates. Tungsten content estimated in part.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

Note: Exports of waste and scrap in August 2019 totaled 73 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–August total of 552 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.